

Washington, DC - U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) today applauded the U.S. Coast Guard for its decision to terminate live weapons training on the Great Lakes.

The decision comes just one month after Kirk and Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) organized a bipartisan regional effort urging the Coast Guard to reconsider its training program.

“When the Coast Guard first announced it would conduct live-fire training on the Great Lakes, we saw an outpouring of concern from our constituents,” Kirk said. “Lake Michigan is the crown jewel of our ecosystem and our families rely on Lake Michigan for safe drinking water.”

The Coast Guard initially proposed live-fire training throughout the Great Lakes in August. Following several public hearings throughout the region, Kirk, Levin and 11 other members of Congress sent a letter to Admiral Thad Allen, urging the Coast Guard to reevaluate its proposal.

“The Coast Guard moved forward thoughtfully, listened closely to public concern and found a responsible balance that ensures the preparedness of Coast Guard personnel while preserving the integrity of our natural resources. I applaud Admiral Allen and his staff for their thoughtfulness and responsiveness.”

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